

Report on Cuban Trade

Approved For Release 2004/06/23 : CIA-RDP65B00383R000200240055-6

CIA Agents Were Freed in Swap

By JACK STEELE

Scripps-Howard Staff Writer

Three of the Americans released from Cuban prisons under a trade arranged by New York Atty. James B. Donovan were agents of the U. S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

This was confirmed today by responsible Government sources here.

They said the United States agreed to the unusual prisoner "swap" primarily to free the captured CIA agents, who were held in Castro dungeons along with an assortment of American adventurers and soldiers of fortune.

In return, the Government agreed to release four Cubans held in this country—a convicted murderer and three alleged saboteurs who were awaiting trial for plotting to blow up defense installations. They were flown to Havana yesterday.

CASTRO AWARE

These officials explained that Cuban Premier Fidel

Castro was aware there were several CIA agents among the American prisoners languishing in his dungeons—but not necessarily their identities.

As a result, they reported, Castro refused to release any of the Americans until Mr. Donovan arranged for the return of the four Cubans held in this country.

Castro apparently was most interested in winning the release of Francisco (The Hook) Molina del Rio, 31, who was serving a 20-years-to-life sentence for killing a 9-year-old girl in a fracas between pro and anti-Castro Cubans in New York.

Molina was a former Castro crony and bodyguard.

New York's Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller said he agreed to release Molina after being told by United States officials this was "necessary in the national interest" to win freedom for the American prisoners.

Altho Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy handled the arrangements to free the four Cubans involved in the

prisoner trade, Justice Department officials insisted they were unaware of the reason for the swap.

They insisted the Attorney General had acted at the request of the State Department.

A CIA spokesman said the agency would "neither confirm nor deny" some of its agents were involved in the exchange.

The disclosure that three CIA operatives were among the Americans freed cleared up only one of several mysteries involved in the swap.

Still to be clarified was a discrepancy in the number of Americans released by Castro.

Mr. Donovan said he had arranged for the release of 27, but only 21 flew back with him from Havana on Monday.

THREE AMERICANS

The "missing" six were reported to include three Americans who chose to go to an unnamed South American country rather than return to the United States and three who decided to remain in Cuba with their families.

Castro refused to set free another Cuban-born prisoner—Rafael del Pino.

One Government official indicated the three CIA agents were among the 21 prisoners who returned to the United States.

Despite reports that several of the freed prisoners were "wanted" by police in the United States, the Federal Bureau of Investigation said it had no warrants or orders to pick up any of them.

The World Today

Crime

FOUR hardened criminals, one a double murderer, sawed thru a series of bars, slipped thru locked steel doors and cut thru a hurricane fence surrounding Jackson Prison in Michigan to make their escape, and state police dogs, a Navy helicopter and a police plane today joined the search for them. Jackson is the nation's largest walled prison.

A man sentenced to 20 lashes and three years in prison for auto theft has appealed the lashes' part of the sentence — given under a 1717 Delaware law — to the state appeals court. From there it is expected to move to the Supreme Court.

National

Precious Land

THE Agriculture Department says total value of farm real estate in the nation now tops \$141 billion, with the average farm valued at \$43,000 or \$126 an acre.

Another 100 communities in



9 to 4:30

Decision in Navy Case Faces Court

By JOHN CRAMER

Presumably fairly soon now, the Supreme Court will have something more to say on the right of Federal employes to confront and cross-examine those who accuse them in disciplinary cases.

It could be a very important something — more important even than its landmark decision in the Williams case.

FEDERAL FIDGETS

In that case, the Court overturned Civil Service Commission's interpretation of its own regulations, and held that the regulations give military veterans in Government the right to cross-examine accusers.


Currently pending before it, however, is another case with potentially broader implications.

It's the suit of Eugene S. Caplan for restoration to the Navy job from which he was fired in 1958.

As Government attorneys read it, this case gives the Court, if it's so disposed, the opportunity to rule that not only Commission regulations, but the Veterans Preference Act itself, guarantees the right to confront and cross-examine.


DIFFERENCE





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The News

CITY EDITION

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 1963

1015 15th St. N.W.—DI. 7-7777

42d Year—No. 144

Approved For Release 2004/06/28 : CIA-RDP65P00385000000740055-6

Second Class Postage Paid at Washington, D. C.


Published Daily Except Sunday

Weather

Sunny and cool today; high in mid 50's, low 38. Fair and warmer tomorrow.

Today at:
 8 a. m. . . . 48

See Weather Maps on Page 2



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